

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH TIMES, MAY 10, 1977

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH TIMES, MAY 10, 1977

UNDER HEADING AFRICAN DILEMMAS:

MR. ANDREW YOUNG, THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, SEEMS TO HAVE THE KNACK OF GETTING HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE. THERE WILL BE CYNICS WHO WILL WONDER WHETHER HE IS BEING USED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AS A CATALYST, OR, TO PUT THE POINT IN A SIMPLER WAY, AS A FRONT-RUNNER FOR AMERICAN POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WHICH FOR SO LONG HAS BEEN NEGLECTED BY WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT CARTER'S SIMPLICITY OF STYLE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AT ITS BASIC VALUATION. AS A WORKING POLITICIAN HIS FIRST CONCERN IS THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. AT THE TIME OF WRITING, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT - WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "ILLEGITIMATE" BY MR. YOUNG - WILL FAVOUR HIS ARRIVAL. THE INTERESTING POINT IS THAT, PRESUMABLY, PRESIDENT CARTER MUST HAVE AUTHORISED THE ALLEGED INDISCRETION OF MR. YOUNG, AND IT DOES SEEM LIKE AN INDISCRETION. IF MR. YOUNG IS DENIED A FREE-RANGING VISIT, THE BLAME - THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN WORLD - WILL BE PLACED SQUARELY ON THE WELL-KNOWN RACIST POLICIES
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OF MR. VORSTER'S GOVERNMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT AN OFFICIAL AS IMPORTANT AS MR. YOUNG CAN BE BRUSHED OFF SO CASUALLY: THE IMPRESSION PERSISTS THAT AN EXERCISE OF BLUFF AND COUNTER-BLUFF IS BEING CONSCIENTIOUSLY OPERATED.

SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT AFFORD TO TURN AWAY MR. YOUNG.

HE IS THE MAIN SYMBOL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENTION TO CONFRONT SOVIET PENETRATION NOT ONLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. IF MR. CARTER WERE TO DISOWN MR. YOUNG, IN ANY WAY, THE ONLY RECIPIENTS OF COMFORT WOULD BE THOSE WHO WOULD BE DESCRIBED, IN SOME POPULAR NEWSPAPERS, AS "WHITE IMPERIALISTS." LABELS OF THIS KIND ARE AS VALUELESS AS THEY ARE PERJORATIVE; BUT, WHEN THEY INVOLVE SOMEBODY AS IMPORTANT AS MR. YOUNG, THEY MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. IT HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT MR. YOUNG, LATER THIS MONTH, WILL CONSULT WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE, SHORTLY BEFORE THE LATTER IS DUE TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, IN VIENNA. MR. YOUNG, IT MIGHT SEEM, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF KICKING UP THE DUST, WHILE MR. MONDALE WILL HAVE TO LAY IT. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE HEGELIAN DIALECTIC WHICH MOST POWERFUL GOVERNMENTS FAVOUR - THESIS, ANTHITHESIS AND, FINALLY, SYNTHESIS. PERHAPS IT WILL WORK IN THIS CASE, THOUGH IT MUST BE SAID THAT THE TROUBLE AFFLICTING THE HORN OF AFRICA RAISES SO MANY PROBLEMS THAT CONFIDENCE IN WASHINGTON'S WISDOM IS LESS THAN SECURE.

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